DIRECTIONS FOR PREVIEWING THE
PRELIMINARY FISH HABITAT WATER TYPE MAP

This is an opportunity to preview the model generated water type maps. These maps are for preview and comment only. The DNR will not be using these maps for regulating forest practices.

INTRODUCTION

For more than 20 years, Washington's forest practices rules have used fish presence to classify streams. New forest practices rules, if implemented, will require streams to be classified based on fish habitat. The new rules will use three new water type classifications: Type-S waters (Shorelines of the State); Type-F waters (fish habitat); and Type-N waters (non-fish habitat).

The DNR has developed a Preliminary Fish Habitat Water Type Map using a model to predict the end of fish habitat in a stream. The map shows the current fish presence with updated Types 1-5 and the new fish/non-fish classifications (F-N) that are modeled end of fish habitat points (EOFH).

The Preliminary Fish Habitat Water Type Map is now available for public review and comment. All interested parties are encouraged to compare the modeled results of this preview map to their own local resource information. For submitting your comments, DNR is providing a Question Form available on their website for your convenience – www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/watertyping

FINDING THE MODELED END OF FISH HABITAT POINT

Office procedure
The modeled end of fish habitat points, as shown in Figure 1, are boundary types that are located within the main channel of a stream, at lateral confluences of streams or at tributary junctions.

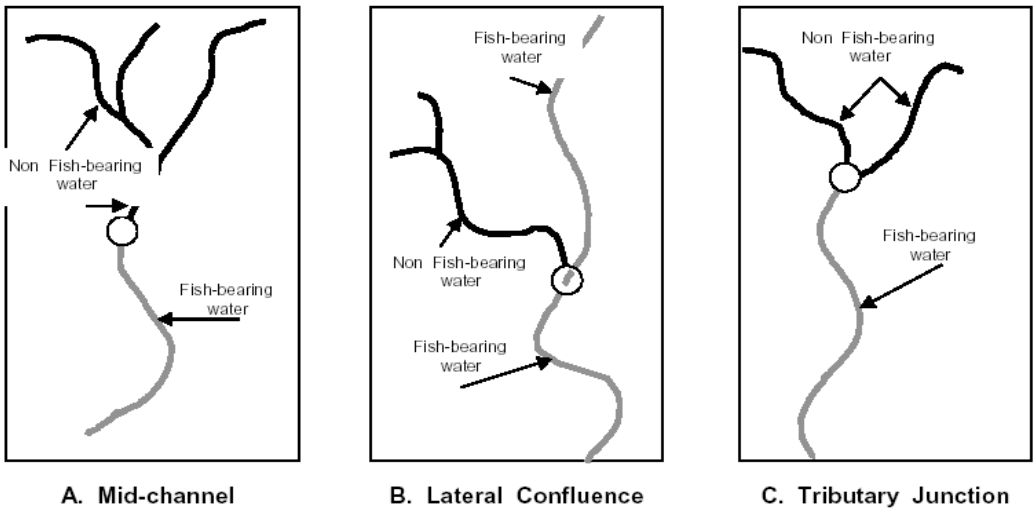

Figure 1. Schematic diagram illustrating the three boundary types between fish-bearing and non fish-bearing waters (from Conrad et al 2003).

Before going into the field, it will be most helpful to locate major reference points to find the EOFH. Reference points can be found on the Preliminary Fish Habitat Water Type Map, on orthophotographs, or on aerial photographs. The most common map reference points are at road junctions, road/water crossings and stream junctions. Reference points such as harvest boundary corners or large individual trees can be best found on either ortho or aerial photographs. When locating a mid-channel modeled EOFH point (Figure 1, scenario A), reference points found on the water type Map and/or photographs will be most useful. Reference points that can be established on photographs serve as an excellent aid to locate the mapped EOFH points at lateral confluences of streams (Figure 1, scenario B) and tributary junctions (Figure 1, scenario C).

Field Procedure

To locate the EOFH in the field use the offices produced reference point either upstream or downstream and calculate a compass bearing (or direction) to the EOFH. It is helpful to overlay an orthophotograph map of the same scale, onto the map to show you where the EOFH is located on the ground relative to the identified reference point. The horizontal distance from the reference point to the EOFH can be calculated using the scale of the map.

If the EOFH is within 1000-feet of a tributary junction or road crossing that is easily identified on the map, use a measuring tape or hip chain to measure this distance on the ground from the reference point to locate the potential map point along the stream.

If no tributary junctions or road crossings are within 1000-feet of the EOFH, determine the compass direction from an identifiable map reference point (e.g., road junction, landing, harvest boundary corners, etc), and apply this bearing to identify the channel point on the ground. The EOFH can be located on the ground by estimating the distance on a map and then using a measuring tape or hip chain in the field. Don't forget to adjust for vertical distance in hilly areas and maintaining the bearing using a handheld compass.

If the EOFH point on the map agrees with the field conditions, such as located near a mid-channel gradient break on the ground, or a tributary junction, then place an EOFH marker near the end of fish habitat break. If there is any questions about where the field EOFH point is, please consult with a qualified fishery biologist (contact a DNR Forest Practices Forester for information).